

# **Whatcom County Council Special Committee of the Whole**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010**



## **Action Summary**

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

**9:15 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:15 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON,  
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil),  
OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Elizabeth Boyle  
Barry Buchanan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway  
Jessica Rienstra  
Jon Scanlon  
Mark Stremmler

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

## **Call To Order**

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 7 - Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, Mark Stremmer, Elizabeth Boyle, and Jessica Rienstra

## **Announcements**

## **Special Order of Business**

1. [AB2026-003](#) Reorganization of the Whatcom County Council for 2026

**NOMINATED AND APPOINTED- SEE ATTACHED**

Motion approved to hold on the appointment of Health Board Chair and Vice Chair until the first Health Board meeting on February 3.

## **Items Added by Revision**

## **Other Business**

## **Adjournment**

**2026 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**  
**( ) Indicates Committee Chair**

As of 1/13/2026

<b>County Council Committee Assignments</b>	<b>Barry Buchanan</b>	<b>Elizabeth Boyle</b>	<b>Ben Elenbaas</b>	<b>Kaylee Galloway</b>	<b>Jessica Rienstra</b>	<b>Jon Scanlon</b>	<b>Mark Stremler</b>
Council Chairperson ( <b><i>Acts as Chair of Council acting in other capacities, Law Library Board, SWISS Exec. Committee, County Finance Committee</i></b> )				X			
Council Vice-Chairperson						X	
Executive Pro-Tempore ( <b><i>Can not be on COG</i></b> )	X						
<b>Standing Committees</b>	<i>per ORD2025-065 / 7 member committees, 1 chair - 2 vice chairs</i>						
Criminal Justice and Public Safety	(X)	VC					VC
Finance & Administrative Services - <b><i>Chair of Finance Committee will automatically act as Council Rep. to What-Comm Administrative Board and Risk Management Working Group Board of Directors (AB2025-575)</i></b>		VC			VC	(X)	
Planning & Development			VC	VC	(X)		
Public Works and Health		(X)				VC	VC
Climate Action and Natural Resources				(X)	VC	VC	
<b><i>Select 2 Natural Res. Committee members as Representatives to Lake Whatcom Policy Group</i></b>				X	X		
<b>Other Committee Assignments</b>							
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee	X				ALT		
Bellingham International Airport Advisory							X
Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce		X					ALT
Business and Commerce Advisory Committee (non-voting)						ALT	X
Child and Family Well-Being Task Force		X			ALT		
Climate Impact Advisory Committee <b>Appoint ONE-Non-Voting (** 3 year term) ORD2022-021</b>				X			
Council of Governments (COG) <b>Appoint TWO members to serve on the Full Council (can not be Exec Pro-Tem)</b>					X	X	
Council of Governments (COG) <b>Appoint ONE of the above two members to also serve on Transportation Policy Board (cannot be Exec Pro-Tem)</b>					X	ALT	
Developmental Disabilities Board		X					
Drayton Harbor & Portage Bay Shellfish Protection Districts			ALT			X	
EDI Board (changed to 1 CM per AB2024-870)		ALT					X
EMS Oversight Board <b>Representative</b>				X			
EMS Oversight Board <b>Alternate Representative</b>			ALT				
Flood Control Zone Committee (Ex Officio)					X		ALT
Forest Advisory Committee ( <b>non voting per AB2025-120</b> )			X	ALT			
Health Board Chair	(appointment held until Feb. 3, 2026)						

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As of 1/13/2026

<b>Other Committee Assignments (Con't)</b>	<b>Barry Buchanan</b>	<b>Elizabeth Boyle</b>	<b>Ben Elenbaas</b>	<b>Kaylee Galloway</b>	<b>Jessica Rienstra</b>	<b>Jon Scanlon</b>	<b>Mark Stremler</b>
Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force ( <b>And Appoint one alternate</b> )	X	ALT					
Intergovernmental Tribal Relations Committee ( <b>Appt. TWO</b> )					X	X	
Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee (JPOP)	X	ALT					
Justice Project Finance and Facility Advisory Board	X						
Joint Advisory Workgroup for Justice Project planning purposes (AB2025-699) - <i>appoint 3</i>	X			X			X
LEOFF Board	X						
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)			X		ALT		
Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee - <b>Appoint ONE non-voting attendee</b>						X	
<b>OPTIONAL:</b> Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee Alt. - <b>Appoint TWO alternates if Council wishes</b>			ALT				
Marine Resources Committee				X			
Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) (AB2023-194)	X						
North Sound Behavioral Health Exec. Committee	X				ALT		
Northwest Clean Air Agency				X			
Northwest Regional Council (NWRC)							X
Opportunity Council <b>Appointment not subject to Council annual re-org</b>	(KG serves on this committee until 1/2028)						
Public Defense Advisory		ALT	X				
Public Health Advisory Board						X	
Racial Equity Commission <b>Appoint ONE-Non-Voting (** 2 year term)</b> AB2022-590				X	ALT		
Solid Waste Advisory Committee							X
SWISS Alternate Committee Member. <i>Council Chair serves on Exec. Committee</i>						X	
WSAC Alternate Board Member (The Executive is the active representative, Councilmember is alternate)				X			
WSAC <i>Optional Alternate</i> Board Member (Res2019-008)					X		
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee				X	ALT		
WSAC Timber Counties Caucus				X			ALT
WSAC Coastal Counties Caucus - <b>Optional</b>				X			
Whatcom Transportation Authority ( <i>appoint 2 councilmembers per bylaw</i> )	X				X		
Whatcom County Tourism Board (AB2023-194)		ALT		X			